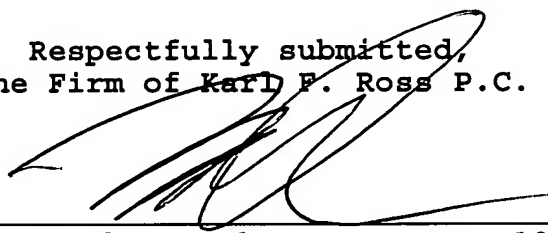


This preliminary amendment is submitted to eliminate multiple claim dependency and to provide the cross reference of the US phase of PCT/DE2003/002622 to the international application according to Rule 78.

Respectfully submitted,
The Firm of Karl F. Ross P.C.



By: Herbert Dubno, Reg. No. 19,752
Attorney for Applicant

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5676 Riverdale Avenue Box 900
Bronx, NY 10471-0900
Cust. No.: 535
Tel: (718) 884-6600
Fax: (718) 601-1099

rg